DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2012 NR # 12-55 (888) 589-0010

PATIENTS' MEDICAL CHARTS ACCESSED IN COUNTY CLINIC BURGLARY

Adelanto: Upon arrival at work on October 1, 2012, staff at the Westside Park Elementary School Based Health Center located at 18270 Casaba Road in Adelanto discovered that the clinic had been burglarized. In addition to damage that was sustained to the building. office equipment and filing cabinets, a locked room containing the clinic's medical records was broken into. Medical records may contain patient names, telephone numbers, addresses, social security numbers, birth dates, health conditions, medications, or other identifiable and protected health information. 1,370 records were accounted for and verified through the clinic's management system. No computer equipment containing private information was accessed or stolen. Police responded to the scene and filed a report. A security officer has been posted at the site during the hours that the clinic is closed.

"We sincerely regret that this situation occurred. There has been no indication that personal or protected health information has been used by unauthorized individuals. The Department of Public Health is committed to providing quality care and protecting privacy, and we want to assure our patients that we have policies and procedures to protect their private information," said Meaghan Ellis, Chief of Community Health Services and Health Center Director.

Anyone suspecting or concerned about fraudulent use of personal information can contact one of the following credit bureaus to request a credit report or to establish credit monitoring: Equifax (800) 525-6285, Experian (888) 397-3742, or TransUnion (800) 680-7289.

Those with questions regarding the incident may call (888) 589-0010 for more information from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

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JOSIE GONZALES, CHAIR.....Fifth District

GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District